



News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BLM begins plan for southern National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

The Bureau of Land Management is beginning to develop a new plan to guide the management of 9.2 million acres of public land in the southern portion of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. In recent years the agency has completed plans for both the northeast and northwest portions of the reserve.

The plan, announced in the *Federal Register* June 15, 2005, will, among other things, (1) determine what lands will be made available for oil and gas leasing and under what conditions; (2) determine appropriate ways to manage important habitat such as that for the western arctic caribou herd; and (3) provide guidance for management of other resources and programs in the planning area.

This plan will also decide on the suitability or non-suitability of the Utukok, Colville and other rivers within the planning area as additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Rivers that are found suitable may be recommended for designation by Congress.

BLM resource specialists will host a series of public information meetings at the following locations: Ambler, Anaktuvuk Pass, Anchorage, Atkasuk, Barrow, Buckland, Fairbanks, Kiana, Kivalina, Koyuk, Kotzebue, Nome, Point Hope, Point Lay and Wainwright.

The public is invited to submit issues and concerns that should be addressed in the plan between now and August 26, 2005. Comments can be submitted at the public meetings or by mail to: South NPR-A Planning Team Leader, 222 W. 7th St. #13, Anchorage, AK 99513. Additional information about the plan, schedule, issues, and meeting dates will be periodically posted online at www.blm.gov until the BLM-Alaska website is restored.

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